

REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-15, and 17-49 were pending. Claims 12, 13, 26, and 27 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 15, 31, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, and 49 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-15, and 17-25, and 28-49 are now pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

(i) Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 20-33, and 28-49 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wobber et al. (US Patent No. 5,235,642);

(ii) Claims 9-13 and 23-27 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobber et al. (US Patent No. 5,235,642); and

(iii) Claims 4, 5, 18, and 19 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wobber et al. (US Patent No. 5,235,642) in view of Carlson et al. (US Patent No. 5,506,961).

The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as to the claims now pending and requests consideration of the following.

Wobber et al. Do Not Teach Purging For Access Rights Alteration

Pages 14-15 of the Office Action recognizes that Wobber et al. do not teach the limitations of

Claims 12, 13, 26, and 27. Rather, Wobber et al. is credited with the disclosure of a time stamp for removing validity of access rights from a cache. The rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is based upon Wobber et al. in view of Office Notice that removing user access rights to a network resource when the resource is altered is well known, and that altering user access privileges to a resource in a network is well known. The Office Action concludes, as to these claims, that:

- (i) it would have been obvious to *** remove user access rights to the resources taught by Wobber et al. when the resource is altered, in the case the altered resource includes classified information which should not be viewed by the current viewers; and
- (ii) it would have been obvious to *** remove indications allowing access to the resources for users whose access rights have changed, so that users who have acted irresponsibly and who should no longer have access to the resources can be prevented from accessing the resources.

In making the obviousness rejection the Office Action substitutes the limitations of Claims 12-13, and 26-27 with Official Notice. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection fails to give proper weight to these limitations, especially since these limitations are missing from the prior art of record. Moreover, these assertions of obviousness are not otherwise supported by way of prior art citation, stated scientific theory, basis for common knowledge in the art, or cited legal precedent.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite the removal of “any access permissions from the first memory allowing access to the requested resource by the user” when “he requested

resource is altered” or “a representation of the user has been removed from the first memory” or “any of the access permissions of the user for access to the requested resource are altered”. Each other independent claims have been similarly amended to recite a removal or purge of access rights from a cache or memory for alternations of access rights.

Due to such absence of support for the limitations now present in the amended independent claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness rejections are to be withdrawn as to the claims now pending. The Applicant respectfully submits that, as to the claims now pending, a *prima facie* case of obvious has not been made out, or in the alternative, the pending claims avoid the rejections. As such, the Applicants respectfully maintain that the pending independent claims are allowable, as are the claims respectively depending therefrom.

Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 14-15, and 17-25, and 28-49 at an early date is solicited.

Marked up Version of the Pending Claims Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) (1) (ii):

Amend Claims 1, 15, 31, 35, 37, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 47, and 49 as follows and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) (1) (ii), by which the Applicants submit the following marked up version only for claims being changed by the current amendment, wherein the markings are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and/or underlining (for added matter):

1. (Fourth Times Amended) A computer-readable medium having a plurality of executable instructions at least a subset of which, when executed, implement a method comprising:

upon receipt of an indication from a user having access to a computer network to access a resource on the computer network, checking a first memory, without performing a file open procedure upon a file in which are stored any access permissions of users for access to the resource, to determine:

if:

the requested resource is altered; or

a representation of the user has been removed from the first memory; or

any of the access permissions of the user for access to the requested

resource are altered:

then removing any access permissions from the first memory

allowing access to the requested resource by the user;

else, if:

the first memory indicates that the user has previously accessed the

resource: [if the user has previously accessed the resource; and]

then providing the user with access to the requested resource [if the

first memory indicates that the user has previously accessed the resource].

15. (Thrice Amended) A method for providing access to a requested resource on a computer network, the method comprising:

checking a first memory, without performing a file open procedure upon a file in which are stored any access permissions of users for access to the requested resource, to determine:

if:

the requested resource is altered; or

a representation of a user has been removed from the first memory, where

the user has access to the computer network and is requesting access to the

requested resource; or

any of the access permissions of the user for access to the requested

resource are altered:

then removing from the first memory any access permissions of the

user that allow access to the requested resource by the user;

else, if:

the first memory indicates that the user has previously accessed the

resource: [if a user having access to the computer network has previously accessed the requested resource; and]

then providing the user with access to the requested resource [if the first memory indicates that the user has previously accessed the resource].

31. (Once Amended) A method for controlling access to a requested resource on a computer network by a requesting user having access to the computer network, the method comprising:

checking a memory, without performing a file open procedure upon a file in which are stored any access permissions of users for access to the requested resource, to determine:

if:

the requested resource is altered; or

a representation of the user has been removed from the memory; or

any access permissions of the user for access to the requested resource are

altered;

then removing from the memory any access permissions of the user

for access to the requested resource;

else, if:

the memory indicates that the requesting user having access to the

computer network had previously accessed the requested resource: [if a user

having access to the computer network has previously accessed the requested

resource; and]

then providing the requesting user with access to the requested resource [if the first memory indicates that the user has previously accessed the resource].

35. (Once Amended) A machine-readable program storage device embodying instructions executable by a computer to perform a method for providing access to a plurality of resources to a plurality of requesting users, wherein access to each said resource is controlled by a network server having a network memory, the method comprising:
receiving at the network server a resource request to access a requested resource of said plurality of resources from one said requesting user, wherein:

the network memory has stored therein which of said plurality of requesting users had accessed which of said plurality of resources; and

an access file has stored therein any access permissions of any users for access to the requested resource;

without opening the access file, checking the network memory to determine:

if:

the requested resource is altered; or

a representation of the requesting user has been removed from the network memory; or

any access permissions of the user for access to the requested resource are

altered:

then removing from the network memory any access permissions
of the user for access to the requested resource;

else, if:

the network memory indicates that the requesting user had previously
accessed the requested resource; [; and if the requesting user had accessed the
requested resource,]

then opening the requested resource to provide access to the
requesting user.

37. (Once Amended) A resource access system comprising:

a network, including a plurality of resources, for transmitting a resource request from a
network user with access to the network for access to a requested resource of said plurality of
resources; and

a network server, in communication with the network and a memory cache, for:

receiving the resource request;

checking the memory cache, without opening any of said plurality of
resources, to determine whether:

the requested resource is altered; or

the network user is logically removed; or

any access permissions of the network user for access to the requested

resource are altered;

if said checking is:

affirmative, then purging the memory cache of any access permissions of the network

user for access to the requested resource;

negative, then determining if the network user's resource request had been previously granted [;] and granting said access if the determining [check] is affirmative.

39. (Once Amended) A program for a resource access system, the program being embodied on a computer-readable medium and executed on a server that provides access to resources on a network, the program comprising:

a code segment to receive a resource request for access to one said resource from a user having access to the network;

a code segment to check a memory cache, without opening any of said resources on the network, to determine whether:

the requested resource is altered; or

the user is logically removed; or

any access permissions of the user for access to the requested resource are altered;

a code segment to purge the memory cache of any access permissions of the user for access to the requested resource if the check is affirmative;

a code segment to determine whether the user had previously been granted access to the requested resource; and

a code segment to grant said access if the check is negative and the determination is affirmative.

41. (Once Amended) A method for controlling access to a requested resource on a computer network by a requesting user, the method comprising:

checking a first memory, without opening the requested resource, to determine if the requesting user has previously accessed the network; and

if the requesting user has previously accessed the network:

providing the requesting user with access to the network;

checking a second memory, without opening the requested resource, to determine;

if:

the requested resource is altered; or

a representation of the requesting user has been removed

from the second memory; or

any access permissions of the user for access to the

requested resource are altered:

then removing from the second memory any access

permissions of the requesting user for access to the

requested resource;

else, if the second memory indicates that the requesting user has

previously accessed the requested resource [; if the requesting user had accessed the requested resource], then providing the requesting user with access to the requested resource; [and]

else, if the requesting user has not previously accessed the requested resource then opening the requested resource to determine if the requesting user may access the requested resource and if the requested resource indicates that the requesting user may access the requested resource then providing the requesting user with access to the requested resource.

42. (Once Amended) A resource access determination method comprising: receiving a request for an access to a resource from a user having had said access; and deciding the request affirmatively based upon contents stored in a cache and without opening the resource or contacting the user, if:

the requested resource was unaltered; and

the user was logically present; and

any access privileges of the user for access to the requested resource were unaltered;

else purging contents of the cache of any access privileges of the user for access to the requested resource.

44. (Once Amended) A resource access determination method comprising:
receiving an initial request for an access to a resource from a user;
obtaining an access privilege of the user to the resource from a cache and without
contacting the user; and

if:

the user had the access privilege to the resource; and
the initially requested resource was unaltered; and
the user was logically present; and
any access privileges of the user for access to the requested resource were
unaltered;

then:

granting the initial request;
receiving subsequent requests for subsequent accesses to the
resource from the user; and

granting each said subsequent request without [:] opening the
resource [;] or contacting the user, but only if:

the subsequently requested resource was unaltered; and
the user was logically present; and
any access privileges of the user for access to the requested
resource were unaltered;

else purging the cache of any access privileges of
the user for access to the requested resource;
else purging the cache of any access privileges of the user for access to the requested
resource.

46. (Once Amended) A resource access determination method comprising:
receiving a request for an access to a resource from a user having had said access; and
deciding the request affirmatively based upon contents stored in a cache, prior to
contacting the user and without opening the resource, if:

the requested resource was unaltered; and

the user was logically present; and

any requirements for access by the user to the resource were unaltered;

else purging contents of the cache of any requirements for access by the
user to the resource.

47. (Once Amended) In a system where resources are protected by access checks
that are performed to confirm that a user meets any requirements for access to a particular
resource, and where an access check is performed the first time that the user requests access to
the particular resource to confirm that the user meets any requirements for access to the particular
resource, a method for determining whether the user should have access to the particular
resource, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a user for access to a resource;
checking the results of previous access request checks, which results are stored in a memory cache, to determine if the user has previously been allowed access to the resource;
if:
the user has previously been allowed access to the resource [,]; and
the requested resource was unaltered; and
the user was logically present; and
any requirements for access by the user to the resource were unaltered;
then allowing access to the resource without performing an access check;
else purging contents stored in the memory cache of any requirements for access by the user to the resource.

49. (Once Amended) In a system where resources are protected by access checks that are performed to confirm that a user meets any requirements for access to a particular resource, where the requirements for each user to access each resource are stored in an access file, where an access check is performed the first time that the user requests access to the particular resource to confirm that the user meets any requirements for access to the particular resource, and where the access check that is performed the first time that the user requests access to the particular resource includes performing a file opening procedure upon the access file to determine the requirements for the user to access the particular resource, a method for

determining whether the user should have access to the particular resource, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a user for access to a resource;

checking the results of previous access request checks, which results are stored in a memory cache, without opening the access file, to determine if the user has previously been allowed access to the resource;

if:

the user has previously been allowed access to the resource [,]; and

the resource was unaltered; and

the user was logically present; and

any requirements for access by the user to the resource were unaltered;

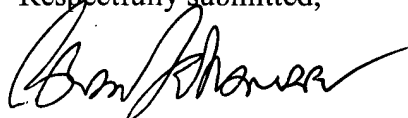
then allowing access to the resource without performing an access check;

else purging contents stored in the memory cache of any requirements for access by the user to the resource.

4. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application which could be clarified by a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 26th day of October 2, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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